



Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

A female monarch lays its eggs on a sprouted milkweed plant. The eggs hatch in four to five days producing tiny yellow, black and white caterpillars.

June-July 2011 Newsletter
www.nwilaudubon.org

Field Trip to Barnhart's Stone Corner Organic Farmer's Market Saturday, June 11

This Oregon farmer's market is located at 2169 E. Honey Creek Rd. in Oregon, IL. John Barnhart, owner of the farm, will give us a tour of his organic truck farm and talk about the fruits and vegetables that he offers. John will share a story about how he made the decision to start the market. An added feature to the farm this year is a stone hearth oven. The tour will start at 10 a.m. and finish with a picnic lunch at noon that will feature fresh bread and local produce from the farm. Car-pool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 9 a.m.

Contact **Teresa Smith** at 815-238-3963 if you have questions.

Elkhorn Creek Butterfly Festival—Saturday, July 30

Join us for a fun, informative family-friendly afternoon as we explore the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve for the many butterflies that are found there. From 1-5 p.m., participants may join butterfly tours or look on their own for those winged beauties.

Tours will begin at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Free "Butterflies and Moths" pocket guides will be distributed at no charge while supplies last. Other information about butterflies also will be available. We'll have a shady rest area with chairs, as well as a restroom, cold beverages and snacks. If the weather is questionable, call Blackmores at 815-938-3204 before 10 a.m. on July 30.

Explorers at last year's Butterfly Festival found 19 species of butterflies and skippers, among them Tiger Swallowtail, Meadow Fritillary, Buckeye, Comma, Pearl Crescent, Peck's Skipper and Silver Spotted Skipper.

The Preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Roads. The parking lot is off of West Grove Road. We hope to see you there!



NIAS Monthly Meetings:

- Held on the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- Oct.-Mar., location is St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 S. Park Blvd., Freeport; 7 p.m. for announcements and reports. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by refreshments.
- April, May & Sept. special mtg. times/place.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Calendar | 2 |
| Considerations | |
| Crane Count Results | 3 |
| Prairie Stewardship | 4 |
| Banquet Appreciation | 5 |
| Birdathon & Bluebirds | 6 |
| Red Rock Wilderness | 7 |



Calendar Considerations

June 1—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 6—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 8—"Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m. at Tom and Chris Hartung's, 896 W. St. James Rd., Orangeville (815-789-3311). Everyone is welcome at these informal discussions of various environmental issues. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:30 p.m. or follow these directions:

Drive north out of Freeport on HWY 26. As you approach Orangeville, turn right off the beginning of the bypass and follow this road into Orangeville (the old HWY 26). In a short distance, you will reach an intersection with St. James Rd. Turn right onto St. James and drive about 1/2 mile east. Hartungs are the second house on the left (north side) and have about a 1/4 mile lane.

June 10—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 11—Field Trip to Barnhart's Stone Corner Organic Farmer's Market. (see front page)

June 14—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 18—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 20—Prairie Work Session, Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 21—SUMMER SOLSTICE CAMPFIRE at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. At 7 p.m., we'll take a leisurely stroll to observe blooming plants and resident birds. The campfire will begin at 8 p.m. S'mores and water will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. Carpool from the Staples lot just off of HWY 26 in Freeport at 6:30 p.m. For directions, see page 4.

June 23—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 27—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

June 30—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

July 2—Field Trip to Sand Ridge Prairie, 10 a.m. to noon. Carpool from the Forreston municipal lot (adjacent to the library) at 9:30 a.m. Sand Ridge Prairie is the high quality prairie just south of Oregon which the Prairie Society purchased last December. Join us as we explore the area for blooming plants. If the weather is questionable, call Keith Blackmore at 815-938-3204. Easy walking; water provided.

July 5—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. Details on page 4.

July 9—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. Details on page 4.

July 11—Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. Details on page 4.

July 15—FULL MOON CAMPFIRE at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Details same as June 21.

July 18—"Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session at Judy and Harlan Corrie's home in rural Cedarville (815-563-4932), 7-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome at these informal discussions of various environmental issues. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:30 p.m. or call Corries for directions.

July 19—Prairie Work Session, Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Details on page 4.

July 30—BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL at Elkhorn Creek, 1-5 p.m. Join us for this great family activity. Details on cover page.

July NIAS Board and Retreat—TBA.

The public is welcome at all chapter activities.

THANK YOU TO...

- 👍 **Anne Straight** for volunteering to be the chapter Hospitality Chairperson.
- 👍 **Our spring burn crew volunteers: Dan and Diana Nye, John and Anita Nienhuis, Lynn and Sandy Feaver, Gil and Sharon Mitchell, Chris and Tom Hartung, Judy and Harlan Corrie, Keith and Mary Blackmore, Larry Seffrood, Rick Weber and Vern Flack.**
- 👍 **Departing board members Lynn Feaver, Anita and John Nienhuis, Laura Dufford, and Richard Benning for their hard work and service to our chapter.**
- 👍 **New board members Chris Hartung and Mary Blackmore for their willingness to serve. Welcome!**

CRANE COUNT RESULTS

This year's Stephenson County crane counters were fortunate to get a narrow window of acceptable weather between pouring rain and cold winds with snow showers. During the misty early morning hours of April 16, 25 counters at 11 sites saw 44 Sandhill Cranes, including 12 pairs. Our count is part of the multi-state Annual Midwest Crane Count coordinated by the International Crane Foundation.

Though we had fewer volunteers and sites this year, crane totals were nearly identical to last year, our record high. Most of the count sites were in the wetlands along Richland Creek, with 1 site along Rock Run Creek and 2 sites near the Pecatonica River.

Many thanks go to our counters who made this census possible: Tom and Chris Hartung, Heidi Thorp, Sherrie Shoemaker, Karla Toelke, Gil and Sharon Mitchell, Anne Straight, Melody Farringer, Mary Blackmore, Sandy Toerber, Dan and Diana Nye, Bonnie Bade, Judy Corrie, Alice and Jesse Akins, Larry Seffrood, Keith Blackmore, Korey and Diane Phillips, Chris Fye, Glenn Hagemann, Allan Stearns and Dick Luthin.



SUMMER PRAIRIE STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please join us for one or more of the following work sessions scheduled below for either the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve or the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve. Depending upon the site or week, we will be doing a variety of tasks such as removing sweet clover, burdock and wild parsnip, cutting brush, girdling saplings or otherwise reducing the competition in our native prairie and wetland remnants.

Times: Times vary so check the schedule below. Following the sessions, those interested will gather at a local restaurant for breakfast.

You Supply: Wear long pants, long sleeves, a hat and footwear that can get wet (earlier is dewier!). Take insect repellent and sunscreen.

We Supply: Tools, gloves, water and directions about our work always will be provided.

Carpooling: The carpool site to Elkhorn Creek is the east portion of the Staples parking lot in Freeport along HWY 26 on the south edge of town. Departure times vary so check the schedule.

Questions? If weather is questionable or you need further information, contact the listed leader(s).

Site Directions: Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd. The Freeport Prairie is just north of the Freeport Raceway on the south edge of Freeport just off of Walnut Rd.

June 1—Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

June 6—Elkhorn Creek, Bluestem View, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Kara Gallup, 815-871-8014.

June 10—Elkhorn Creek, Jim's Hill, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leaders: Lynn Feaver and Keith Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

June 14—Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Keith Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

June 18—Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader: Chris Kruger, 815-238-9259.

June 20—Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

June 23—Elkhorn Creek, Spiderwort Vista, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Anne Straight, 815-938-3263.

June 27—Elkhorn Creek, Sandy Slope, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leaders: John and Anita Nienhuis, 815-443-2401.

June 30—Elkhorn Creek, Bluestem View, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Kara Gallup, 815-871-8014.

July 5—Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leaders: Randy and Nancy Ocken, 815-938-3506.

July 9—Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. leader: Jeremy Dixon, 815-821-3921.

July 11—Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Keith Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

July 19—Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m., Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

NIAS ANNUAL BANQUET—A SUCCESS THANKS TO YOU!

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society Annual Banquet, which took place on April 14, was a wonderful evening thanks to the hard work of the Audubon community. Here is a list of the folks who rolled up their sleeves and helped to make it happen:

Silent Auction

Thanks to the Silent Auction committee members, Mary and Keith Blackmore and Chris Kruger. They report the proceeds totaled \$847.60. Auction items were donated by:

Carol Litus
Mary Green
Anne Straight
Bob Blackmore
Dan Smith
Marvin Thill
Dave Derwent
Bonnie Bade
John and Susan Walt
Kara Gallup
Alice Akins
Keith and Mary Blackmore
Jan Collier
Sally Schnell
Dick Frost
Sandy Tune
Sharon Shaw
Jody Petta
Charlene Collins
Phil and Lona Kniskern
Mary Lou Bower
Rebecca Shriver-Rice
Molly Doolittle
Kris Wolff
Don Southard
Gil and Sharon Mitchell
Grace Storch
Chris Kruger

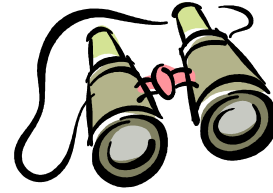
Desserts

Anita Nienhuis coordinated the contributions of all those yummy homemade desserts. Many thanks, Anita! Desserts were donated by:

Eve Wilczewski
Chris Hartung
Dave Derwent
Kathy Weber
Anne Straight
Diana Nye
Sharon Mitchell
Mary Blackmore
Judy Corrie
Laura Dufford
Wendy Nienhuis
Alice Akins
Bonnie Bade
Sandy Tune
Warren Burstrom
Sally Schnell
Diane Phillips
Leah Dixon
Anita Nienhuis



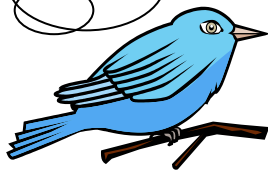
BIRDATHON 2011



Although the day was a bit chilly and a tad on the windy side, the May 1st Birdathon was deemed a success! There were lots of bird species scattered about, whether on water, land or in trees. Throughout the day, the birders saw a combined total of over 115 species. Many thanks to all the birders who participated in this event and a special thanks to those who made pledges which makes this day worthwhile.

BLUEBIRD WORKSHOP

On Saturday, April 2nd, the Education Committee of NIAS sponsored a bluebird workshop in Freeport. The program was given by three Audubon members: Joan Harmet, Grace Storch, and Dick Bach. These presenters shared vast amounts of information about bluebirds with the participants. Joan, Grace and Dick are actively involved with the Bluebird recovery program in Jo Daviess County in conjunction with the Conservation Guardians of Jo Daviess County. Many thanks to Joan, Grace and Dick for sharing their knowledge with us and also, a big thanks to all those who helped with the program — setting up, refreshments, audio-visual, and tearing down: Anne Straight, Judy Kurr, Dick Luthin, Teresa Smith, and John and Anta Nienhuis.



Utah's Red Rock Wilderness—An Update from NIAS

Following a spring program about Utah's Red Rock Wilderness, our Chapter sent a letter to both Illinois Senators in support of a Wilderness Act. The following response was received from Senator Dick Durbin:

Members of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society:

Thank you for your message about Utah's wilderness areas. I appreciate hearing from you and agree that we must protect and preserve the natural state of Utah's wilderness as well as public lands in other states.

Preservation of these lands will allow us to enjoy their beauty, conserve their wildlife and learn from their isolated ecosystems. In an attempt to protect wilderness lands in Utah, I introduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act during the last session of Congress. This legislation would protect millions of acres in Utah by designating specified land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These wilderness areas include the Great Basin, the Zion and Mojave Deserts, Glen Canyon and San Rafael Swell, among others.

The bill also would take steps to minimize damage from roads and would protect all of the specified lands from mining claims and from mineral and geothermal leasing.

While America's Red Rock Wilderness Act did not pass prior to adjournment of the last session of Congress, I will continue to support legislation that ensures the preservation of some of our nation's most precious natural areas this session.

Thank you for your message. Please feel free to keep in touch.

Richard J. Durbin

United States Senator

April 20, 2011

Following this letter, we heard from Clayton Daughenbaugh, the program speaker supporting preservation of Utah's wilderness area, and he sent the following press release, dated May 13, 2011, from Dick Durbin's office, of which this is an excerpt:

Durbin and Hinchey Introduce Bill To Protect America's Red Rock Wilderness

In an effort to preserve 9.1 million acres of Utah's spectacular red rock country as wilderness, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Congressman Maurice Hinchey today introduced legislation in the Senate and House that would ensure the public land remains in its natural, undeveloped state. "The legislation Congressman Hinchey and I are introducing today will designate as wilderness some of our nation's most remarkable, but currently unprotected public lands," said Durbin. "This land was chosen based on meticulous research and surveying of thousands of square miles to determine which lands should be protected. America's Red Rock Wilderness is a lasting gift to the American public that will give future generations the opportunity to enjoy a landscape that so many now cherish."

The measure is endorsed by the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance in Utah, and more than 240 local and national conservation groups with the Utah Wilderness Coalition.



BOARD MEMBERS:

President—Lucas Bradley
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Vice President—Teresa Smith
Secretary—Judy Kurr
Treasurer—Mary Blackmore
At large—Steve Simpson, Tony Grahame, Tim Smith, Sharon Shaw, Willem Dijkstra and Chris Hartung.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conservation —TBA
Programs—Keith Blackmore
Education—Eve Wilczewski
Publicity—Dan Barron
Membership—TBA
Field Trips— Rick Weber
Sustainable Agriculture—Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Laura Dufford and Heidi Thorp
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Keith Blackmore
Carol Redmore

Yes, I would like to give a gift membership in the National Audubon Society/
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society to:

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- Senior Citizen ____ (\$15)
- Chapter only ____ (\$15)

Make check payable to NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:
Treasurer, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

X Sorry, this discount does not apply to renewals

ADDRESSES OF YOUR LEGISLATORS

Federal

Senator Richard Durbin
Kluczynski Building 38th Floor
230 S. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60604

Senator Mark Kirk
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

(16th District)
Rep. Don Manzullo
415 S. Mulford Rd.
Rockford, IL 61108

(17th District)
Rep. Phil Hare
1535 47th Ave., Suite 5
Moline, IL 61265

State

Sen. Tim Bivins
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (45th District)

Sen. Mike Jacobs
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (36th District)

Rep. Jim Sacia
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (89th District)

Rep. Jerry Mitchell
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (90th District)

Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121
State House Switchboard (217) 782-2000
(When using either switchboard, simply ask to be connected to the legislator's office.)

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Eric
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